

File 452

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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1. The yield of the 1954 grain harvest in Czechoslovakia was lower than that of 1953. Losses in wheat and rye were greater than losses in barley and oats. Wheat and rye crops suffered because of dry frosts which affected the soil when it was not covered with snow. This caused the yield of these crops to fall below average, particularly in sections of Southern Moravia where, source estimates, the wheat harvest was only 70% of the average yield. There were fields where, because of heavy frosts, the wheat was so poor that the crop simply had to be plowed under. Rye crops were only slightly better in these areas.
2. In Southern Slovakia all types of grain suffered from the Danube River floods. The floods occurred during the late stage of the harvest season and affected the harvest of all grain crops, with the exception of maize, which was not yet ready for harvest.
3. The 1954 sugar-beet harvest did not reach the 1953 level but may still be considered an average harvest. The year 1953 was a favorable one for agriculture in general and was particularly good for sugar-beet production. This was true with regard to both the quality and quantity of production. Dry pulp sugar content was as high as 23%. This was the best percentage achieved during the last 20 years; the average percentage has been from 18% to 19%.
4. In contrast to the results of the grain harvest, the 1954 yield of potatoes was only slightly lower than in 1953.

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